

Good morning and thank you. My name is Brian Gallagher I'm 41 years old and live in Cedar Rapids. I've been married for 21 years and we have two children. I'd like to thank Sen Dandekar for sf54, Sen Gronstal for having this interim committee and the committee itself.

First off I'd like to give a little history of Lake MacBride. According to the Lake MacBride website, **History of the Area:** An effort to establish the wooded valleys of Mill and Jordan Creeks as a state park was initiated by the Iowa City Chamber of Commerce and J.N. "Ding" Darling, a noted Iowa Conservationist. To raise funds to purchase additional land for the park, lots were sold in the area.

In June, 1937 the park opened to the public. The name for the park was selected from several hundred contest entries. Thomas MacBride had a distinguished 40-year career as professor of botany and president of the University of Iowa. He has been called the "father" of conservation in Iowa. In 1895 he addressed the members of the Iowa Academy of Science on the need to establish a statewide system of "country" or "rural" parks.

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) constructed a number of facilities at Lake MacBride in the 1930's including the beautiful stone shelter and beach building.

In 1955, the Lake was enlarged. A portion of the park borders Coralville Lake, one of Iowa's largest artificial Lakes, constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

I've heard that the home owners have a vested interest in keeping the status quo. Hey you live in a state park. The government is always doing things for the good of the people, even if that means making you sell some of your land for a highway or in Cedar Rapids a fire station. Things change all the time. There isn't a reason why Lake MacBride shouldn't have the same rules as all other artificial Lakes of 100 acres or more. As best as I could find, there are less than 50 homes on Lake MacBride. Not a very big number.

In 1986 boaters were allowed to use any size motor on all artificial Lakes of 100 acres or more at a no wake speed, except Big Creek Lake and Lake MacBride. In 1997 Big Creek went to any size motor with a no wake, leaving MacBride the only Lake of its size with a special restriction. Susan Stocker Iowa's boating law administrator/education coordinator reports that there have been no reportable boating accidents on Big Creek Lake for 12 years. 12 years of boating safely with large motors at no wake speed. Big Creek Lake, smaller than MacBride, is a Lake like MacBride; there are many different vessels on this Lake. Chad Kelchen, Big Creek Lake park manager says, we don't have any problems at all with fishing boats with large horsepower motors, sailboats, wind surfers, pontoons, paddle boats and paddle boards. They all seem to enjoy the Lake the way they want to at a no wake speed.

Lake MacBride truly is a special lake; this is something I'm sure we can all agree on. But it is a state park, funded by tax payer money, fishing licenses, hunting licenses, boat registration tags, and other DNR fees. With that being said, why then does this lake have its own special law? I have yet to hear a logical reason as to why. No wake, is no wake, motor size doesn't make a wake, speed does. **My 65 horsepower motor doesn't make a wake before or after the restriction why would it during June, July, and August.** There have been no citations given out for making a wake or for using a motor that is too big during the restrictions that I could find. If you go to DNR home page under "Equal Recreation Opportunities" it states "All persons are entitled to full and equal enjoyment of the recreational opportunities, privileges, and advantages available in Iowa's great outdoors." This is not happening during the restriction at Lake MacBride.

In 2001, a \$2.4 million project began to turn Lake MacBride around. Silt was removed and used to build 24 islands and underwater reefs later covered in protective rock. Dozens of large boulder piles were added to several old submerged road beds. A half mile, 12 foot-wide reef was built, 10 miles of shoreline was armored with riprap. In 2009 MacBride was drawn down again to add more rock to shoreline, jetties and islands eroded from the 2008 flood. Was all this done for the sailboats, canoes and kayaks? I doubt it. Paul Sleeper, fisheries biologist at MacBride says, "The fishing is the best I can remember and I've been here since 1968." said last year in 2010. The best fishing at Lake MacBride is in late June and July. The information above comes from the magazine Iowa Outdoors a DNR magazine. I would have to agree. Lake MacBride is large enough to get stocked with fish, not all Lakes are. In fact Pleasant creek Lake, a no motor restriction no wake Lake in Linn co., doesn't get stocked with walleye last I knew. The DNR has done an exceptional job with Lake MacBride; let the fisherman use it all boating season.

Lake MacBride is a peaceful Lake, and I'm not here today to change that. I don't want the skier's, tuber's, jet skies, and speed on MacBride any more than those who want to keep it status quo. I just want to use the Lake that I help maintain with the taxes and fee's that I pay. I to have a kayak, but when I'm using it at MacBride, before or after the restriction, I don't feel unsafe because there is a bass boat with a 100 horsepower motor coming by me at no wake speed.

In the Cedar Rapids gazette on February 8th, 2011 the article Speed bumps, by Orlan Love, has a Quote from Thad Takes, president of the Cedar Rapids Bassmasters, "we feel like we're being gypped- not getting to fish public water that our money has helped to improve." DNR fisheries biologist Paul Sleeper, who manages MacBride, said the DNR would prefer consistent rules on all state Lakes of 100 acres- no wake allowed and no motor restrictions. Sleeper said bills like Sen Dandekar's SF54 have been introduced in nearly every session of the legislature. That must mean there are many voters and tax payers that want this restriction to be lifted.

I was never much into politics. Sure I vote and read what's going on, and that's where I stopped. But since I have been involved in trying to get this motor restriction lifted I've learned a lot. I used to think that a lot of what I saw on TV or in the movies was fiction. Was I wrong? I learned that there is backroom politics such as logrolling, and I'm not sure how this "You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours" helps the majority of any issue, seems like that practice only helps special interest groups. I'm not sure what happens with this issue after today, but I sure hope next years session will see this come to the floor for a vote instead of it never making it to the floor.

Thank you